

I'EROICA & TUSCANY

Italy, 2019



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EROICA & Tuscany

L'Eroica is truly one of the most original Gran Fondo rides in the world and a celebration of all things cycling! Join us on the 'strada bianca' (white gravel roads) in 2019 for what will be an exhilarating ride! The experience is truly rewarding – cycle from dawn to dusk, from a tankful of energy to those last final drops, from exhilaration to fatigue ...

We have designed a memorable tour following the landscapes and most picturesque towns and cities of Tuscany: Florence, Montalcino & Lucca. Additional excursions include cycling routes designed to pass through the Piazza del Campo in Siena, the famous leaning tower of Pisa and a special visit to the Tommasini bike factory which still today builds bikes 100% handmade!

You will also immerse yourself in all things Tuscany including its diverse districts and traditions, superb food and fine wine: Viva la Toscana!

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Live the excitement of the L'Eroica Gran Fondo event
- 8 guided rides through the beautiful Tuscan vineyards and fields
- Experience the strada bianca (Italy's version of Paris Roubaix!)
- Enjoy fine reds, such as, Rosso di Montalcino, Nobile di Montepulciano & Chianti
- Visit Sienna - the medieval jewel of Tuscany!
- Cycle through the undulating Chianti wine region
- Enjoy many tourist attractions, such as, Pisa and medieval Pienza
- A special guided group visit to the Tommasini bike factory!
- Delicious Tuscan peasant cooking
- Ride a steel vintage road bike during l'Eroica gran fondo!

ITINERARY

DAY ONE – Friday 4 October 2019 – Florence

We will collect you from Florence Airport at approximately 10am and transfer you to the tour hotel. We will officially welcome you all to Italy before setting up the bikes and heading out for a picturesque warm-up ride. Tonight you will enjoy dinner with the tour guides.

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

Destinations: Gaiole in Chianti

Today's Ride: 60km cycling

Accommodation: Chianti (Tuscany, Italy)

DAY TWO – Saturday 5 October 2019 – Val di Cecina

Tomorrow is a big day of Gran Fondo action so you will start to familiarise yourself with the local landscapes and the riding that will be on offer. The Chianti region is loved for its natural beauty, postcard perfect small towns, friendly locals, quality wine and fresh produce! The riding is brilliant as you pedal along winding roads past old agricultural estates and manor houses. There will be time to practise on the 'strada bianca' today as we will also hit-up some gravel roads on the outskirts of Siena. The perfect ride to have you fit and ready for l'Eroica!

In the afternoon you will visit the l'Eroica event village. Here you will collect a vintage (pre 1985) steel bike ahead of tomorrow's gran fondo cycling event. Be careful not to get lost in this amazing expo. The village includes close to 100 stalls with cycling gear and bikes from yesteryear. A short spin around town to practise on your new wheels will be in order!

Meals: Breakfast

Destinations: Gaiole in Chianti

Today's Ride: 75km cycling (steel bike)

Accommodation: Chianti (Tuscany, Italy)

DAY THREE – Sunday 6 October 2019 – l'Eroica 46, 75, 135 or 209km

Today you ride Italy's version of the Paris Roubaix! The l'Eroica Gran Fondo was born from a pure passion for cycling with the aim of rediscovering the authentic roots of a truly beautiful sport! The ride is through the 'Chianti Valley' in the heart of Tuscany. The participants of this grand event pull on vintage clothing and jump on a steel bike in spectacular fashion over the white gravel roads. The locals cheer for you like the heroic days of Binda, Gagliardini and Bartali as quaint towns with names like Greve, Panzano and Radda in Chianti roll-on by. The party back in Gaiole in Chianti is one of pure fun and friendship. There is no talk of times or distance ridden as this united cycling family simply shares stories of a unique day cycling! During the evening we will yet again celebrate our cycling achievements and new friendships formed with a classic glass of Montepulciano and Chianti red wine!

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

Destinations: Gaiole in Chianti

Today's Ride: chosen L'Eroica distance

Accommodation: Chianti (Tuscany, Italy)

DAY FOUR – Monday 7 October 2019 – Montalcino

After breakfast we say goodbye to Chianti and cycle for Montalcino. The cycling follows rolling terrain and the arrival in Piazza del Campo in Siena is truly special. The medieval piazza is one of Europe's greatest squares! The twice-a-year horse-race, Palio di Siena, is held around the edges of the piazza.

Today's route also continues towards Asciano and the famous 'Senesi Crete'. The clay fields during earlier days were overworked and abandoned and erosive forces have created a lunar landscape. Along the way we pass Montepulciano and its famous wine estates. This evening we can sample a bottle or two of the wonderful Nobile di Montepulciano wine!

Meals: Breakfast

Destinations: Montepulciano & Asciano

Today's Ride: 90km cycling

Accommodation: Montalcino (Tuscany, Italy)

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EROICA & TUSCANY 4 – 12 OCTOBER 2019



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DAY FIVE – Tuesday 8 October 2019 – Tomassini Bike Factory

This morning you can enjoy riding through the beautiful rural landscapes of the Val d'Orcia (UNESCO World Heritage Site). Follow roads lined with the regions characteristic and emblematic cypress trees. The jewel of the Val d'Orcia region is the small renaissance towns and there will be time to soak up the medieval history. Enjoy your road-side lunch as we break out some rustic bread and salami!

During the afternoon in Grosseto there will also be time for a special guided group visit of the Tommasini Bike Factory. The factory takes its name from founder Irio Tommasini who was a master frame-builder and who established the brand in 1948. The Tommasini brand is especially appreciated for its finish and geometry and the workmanship which has been passed down from generation to generation. This will be a wonderful opportunity to see first-hand a traditional Italian bike brand that is steeped in tradition!



Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

Destinations: Grosseto

Today's Ride: 100km cycling

Accommodation: Montalcino (Tuscany, Italy)

DAY SIX – Wednesday 9 October 2019 – Pisa & its *Leaning Tower*

This morning there will be a 1.5hr van transfer from Montalcino. Immediately south of Pisa is the extensive Val di Cecina region which includes three natural reserves including, Caselli, Monterufoli and Cornate y Fosini. This area is highly regarded for its historical, cultural and natural treasures. The undulating roads will keep you interested throughout as the ride moves north towards Pisa. There are many 1-3km climbs and descents on twisting roads that pass quiet townships. A rest stop in Volterra to see the Roman theatre is a must! Following a lunch stop in Pisa and the customary photo of its famed *leaning tower* the cycling pushes on to Lucca which will be home for the next two nights.

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

Destinations: Volterra & Pisa

Today's Ride: 100km

Accommodation: Lucca (Tuscany, Italy)

DAY SEVEN – Thursday 10 October 2019 – Lucca Loop

Cycling from the town centre and the imposing Renaissance wall which surrounds the entire city will leave a long lasting memory. The wall was never touched during battle and along with its medieval streets, towers, churches and grand plazas provides the perfect base for a cycling holiday! Initially heading east and the cycling today takes you through the fertile region surrounding Lucca and nearby Monte Serra which has seen two Giro d'Italia crossings. The climb is 10.5km long, follows an average grade of 8% and finishes at an elevation of 917m.

Meals: Breakfast

Destinations: Lucca

Today's Ride: 90 km cycling

Accommodation: Lucca (Tuscany, Italy)

DAY EIGHT – Friday 11 October 2019 – Pistoia & Florence

Cycling from the hotel we head east towards Pistoia on the outskirts of Florence. The warm-up will deliver you to Passo Della Collina. While a relatively long 15km climb the average 5.4% gradient shouldn't present too many problems. In the evening you will enjoy dinner with the tour guides in a typical osteria in the heart of Florence. Tales of wonderful cycling experiences will flow like the local wine!

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

Destinations: Pistoia

Today's Ride: 95 km

Accommodation: Florence (Tuscany, Italy)

DAY NINE – Saturday 12 October 2019 – Goodbyes

Following breakfast we will have you at Florence Airport by 10:30am. *Arrivederci!*

Meals: Breakfast



TRIP DETAILS

REGION: Tuscany, Italy

LEVEL: BEGINNER +

TOUR DATES: 4 – 12 OCT 2019

HOTELS: Chianti (x3), Montalcino (x2),
Lucca (x2), Florence (x1); 3-4 star hotels

PRICE: 3100 € p.p. (twin share)

OPTIONAL EXTRAS:

Single Supplement: **450 €**

Vintage Bike Hire (l'Eroica): **200 €**

Carbon Road Bike Hire (1 week): **300 €**

DURATION: 9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS

PAYMENT:

Option 1: In Euro to our nominated Spanish bank account (via international bank transfer)

Option 2: In \$AUD to our nominated Australian bank account.

INCLUDED

Arrival & Departure transfers (Florence Airport)
8 nights accommodation including breakfast
5 dinners with beer & wine included
8 guided cycling stages with van and mechanic
Guaranteed entry to L'Eroica Gran Fondo
Food & drinks during cycling stages
Italian cycling tour jersey

NOT INCLUDED

Airfares
Pre or post Tour Accommodation